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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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SUBJECT	Organizational Structure of the Ministry of National Education of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam	DATE DISTR.	19 October 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) Ministry of National Education is headed by Minister Nguyen Van Huyen, seconded by Secretary of State for National Education Nguyen Khanh Doan.
2. The offices of the Ministry include, in addition to the Secretariat:
 - a. Office of Popular Education, broken down geographically into:
 - (1) Department of Popular Education of the Interzone, and
 - (2) Department of Provincial Popular Education.
 - b. Office of General Education, also subdivided geographically into:
 - (1) Department of General Education of the Interzone, and
 - (2) Department of Provincial General Education.
 - c. Office of Higher Education which, unlike the other two, is subdivided functionally into the following branches:
 - (1) Medicine
 - (2) Pharmacy
 - (3) Mathematical and Technical Sciences
 - (4) Agriculture

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3. In the field of Popular Education, the proclaimed aim of the Ministry of National Education of the DRV is to work against illiteracy. To this end, popular preparatory courses are now in the process of being created. The purpose of these courses is to teach beginners the rudiments of the three R's.
4. General Education, within the DRV system, comprises three stages:
 - a. First stage consists of four classes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, covering the requirements for a certificate of supplementary primary studies.
 - b. Second stage comprises the 5th, 6th, and 7th classes and leads to a diploma of higher primary studies.
 - c. Third stage covers the 8th and 9th classes and covers the level of studies required for the Baccalaureat.
5. Higher Education includes preparatory courses for the university and university work proper. After the 9th class, all students are required to take a university preparatory course for a period of one to two years before being admitted to the university.
6. Administratively, each school within the DRV educational system constitutes one unit. Three or four such schools (located in one or two communes) form an educational sector, with its own sector administration.
7. All instructors in public or private schools of a given province belong to a union covering that province. Similarly, there is a section of the union for each educational sector, to which all the instructors within that sector belong.
8. The students of a given school all form a single scholastic group called Hieu Doan. In turn, the members of each class form a single cell within their scholastic group.
9. The prevailing methods of education can best be grouped according to whether they fall into the cultural or political indoctrination category.
 - a. From the cultural point of view, the lessons are taught in the usual manner. Each night, the students meet in study groups or cells and review their lessons, guided by an instructor. Each such group or cell consists of from five to ten students, selected according to their ability and place of residence.
 - b. From the political point of view, the student group of each school looks after the discipline and the moral and political education of its members. This is a system in which the students practice mutual surveillance. The instructor acts as advisor.
 - c. When meeting as a body, the student cells form a section of the student group of a school. An assembly of sections forms one group, and a meeting of groups forms the student union of the province.

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